

21. (New) The backpack of claim 1 wherein the distal end of each shoulder support member is connected to the backpack body at a second transition region between the outer region of the backpack and a lateral side region of the backpack body.

A6 22. (New) The backpack of claim 21 additionally comprising a member adapted to guide the shoulder support member along a lateral side region of the backpack body.

23. (New) The backpack of claim 21 additionally comprising a ring attached to the lateral side region and having one of said shoulder support members threaded through said ring.

24. (New) The backpack in claim 1 wherein the distal end of each shoulder support member is connected to the backpack body at a third transition region between the outer region of the backpack body and the bottom region of the back pack body.

25. (New) The backpack in claim 1 having only two shoulder support members, with the distal ends of the two shoulder support members connected to each other and provides support to the lower outer region of the backpack body.

26. (New) The backpack in claim 25 additionally comprising a plurality of rings connected to the body of the backpack and having one of said shoulder support members threaded through each ring.